

The Priest and the People.

"Go, Shew Thyself to the Priest."

S. Matt. viii., 4.

IN the Gospel for this Sunday there is recorded the miracle of healing the leper. The Master had just descended from the Mount, where He had preached His marvelous sermon, when He was met by a poor unfortunate cursed with the loathsome and incurable disease of leprosy. The leper evidently recognized in Jesus the power of healing, for at once he sends forth the cry: "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." And the Saviour says: "I will be thou clean." "And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

But mark now what follows: The Master bids him go and comply with the old ceremonial law. The man is not to return immediately to his friends and relatives in order that they may share in the joy of his recovery. There is no doubt, whatever, about his complete restoration to health. He has the evidence of recovery in the soft white flesh and the rich blood coursing in his veins. May he not dispense with the customary forms? But the Christ, Who came not to destroy the law but to fulfil it, will not interfere with the relations between the priest and the individual. He bids the man go and make his accustomed offerings, receive absolution and a certificate of health, and in every particular conform to the Levitical requirements. In a word, Jesus recognizes and approves the relation between the priest and the soul. Our text, therefore, gives us a subject. *The Relation between the Priest and the People.*